



STARLIGHT

JUNE
2021

Chris Clapper to Represent Ohio at the 2022 National S.O. Games



The Final Jeopardy answer is: Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Tiger Woods, and Chris Clapper.

And the question is: Who are four famous golfers?

That's right, Hancock County's own Chris Clapper has stepped into the ranks of the big time as he was recently invited to represent Ohio in the National Special Olympics golf tournament in May 2022 in Orlando, Florida.

"We are all so proud of Chris," said Melanie Williams, coordinator of Hancock County Special Olympics. "He has really worked hard to improve his game and he definitely earned this honor. Everyone associated with Special Olympics in Hancock County is so excited for Chris."

Chris said he played in the Hancock County Special Olympics Golf Outing 17 years ago and got the golfing bug. His dad worked with him and helped hone his game.

For years, Chris played Unified golf. However, he eventually asked his coach if he could start playing singles. He has worked out. Two years ago, Chris won his division at the Ohio Special Olympics competition, shooting a career-best 54 for nine holes.

"This is a great honor for me," Chris said. "I'm going to keep practicing and working on my game. I want to make Hancock County and the entire state of Ohio proud when I go to Orlando."

For the national competition, Chris will be coached by Debi Williams.

Golf will take place at Orange County National Golf Center, one of the largest venues in the nation. With more than 200 participating athletes, the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games golf event will host skills competitions, individual standard, and Unified, alternate stroke competitions.

Blanchard Valley School Preschoolers Graduate

The 2021 Blanchard Valley School graduated its 5-year-old preschoolers on May 20. Members of the class of 2021 were:

Maddox Baker, Annabelle Girdler, Iris Atwan, Major Quinn, Hazel Kruse, William Shupe, Elena Griffin Wyatt Eubanks Nile Swegles-Howard, Kinsey Grant-Berry, Rykken Thomas, Grayson Spence, Ethan Colich, Cowan York and Levi Koch. Shown in the photo are student Major Quinn with preschool instructor Rachel Savarino, right, and instructor assistant Brooke Baker.



Marines Salute Molly Constien

Molly Constien was recently honored by the Marine Corps League with a certificate of appreciation at a ceremony on May 11. Molly receives supports from Blanchard Valley Center. Molly was presented the award by the Marine Corps League's district representative for Northwest Ohio, based in Lima. Molly attends all the meetings of the league and does so with a smile.



NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thanks, Teachers: An Incredible Job During a Very Difficult Year



I've got to begin this column with a big shoutout to the teachers at Blanchard Valley School. They did an incredible job this school year under equally incredible circumstances. Working under the COVID restrictions was, at best, challenging. However, they did it without complaint and always with the best interests of the children we support. So, thank you, teachers, for a job well done.

Our Hancock County Special Olympics Golf Outing was again a great success. Thanks to all who participated. We raised \$14,600 for Special Olympics, and that is awesome.

I tip my cap to Melanie Williams, who is the coordinator of Hancock County Special Olympics. When you're the coordinator of Special Olympics, there is no off-season, and Melanie does a great job with the program.

As long as I'm tipping my hat and talking golf, congratulations to Chris Clapper on being selected to represent Ohio in the National Special Olympics golf tournament. Nicely done, Chris!

If you're interested in working in one of the most satisfying fields anywhere, give us a call. We have openings for several positions at Blanchard Valley Center. For a list of openings, visit: www.blanchardvalley.org/workwithus. Also, you can send human resources an email by clicking on the green icon on that page.

Kelli Grisham, Superintendent

Special Olympics Looking For Golfers, Softballers

Hancock County Special Olympics has openings for golfers and softball players for competition this summer.

If you're interested in playing in either of these sports, contact Melanie Williams, director of Hancock County Special Olympics, at mwilliams@blanchardvalley.org or 419.422.6387, ext. 1024.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS OF THE QUARTER



Yates & Young Plumbing & Heating Co.



Clare Bohn, Key Realty



Terri Lewis, University of Findlay

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Nora Hudson

FANS Network

The FANS Network is a group of people committed to enhancing the lives of people with DD in a variety of ways. For more information or to sign up and help when needed, email info@blanchardvalley.org.

BVC provides resources and supports that empower people with DD to live lives with meaning and purpose.



Blanchard Valley Center
Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities

1700 E. Sandusky Street, Findlay, OH 45840
blanchardvalley.org | 419-422-6387

**Service & Support
Emergency Number**
419-722-9262

